



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAY 14 2009

Honorable Michael E. McMahon
323 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McMahon:

Thank you for your letter of April 6, 2009 regarding the need to expand the sampling of the Jewett White Lead Company site (site) located at 2000 Richmond Terrace, Borough of Staten Island, New York. As you know, EPA began its investigation of the site in response to a request from your office. Since that time EPA has collected and tested samples of soil from the site and from adjacent sidewalks and roadways. EPA evaluated the results of these tests and has determined that a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) removal action is warranted to address potential threats to human health and the environment posed by lead contaminated soil at the site.

EPA is currently working with the property owner, Perfetto Realty, to mitigate the risks to public health posed by the elevated levels of lead detected in the soils at the site. An interim cleanup was completed by Perfetto which included: the installation of sediment and erosion controls on the perimeter of the property; the installation of wind-screen fabric and lead warning signs on the perimeter fencing; the construction of a decontamination pad near the entrance for equipment leaving the site; seeding and mulching of the site; and the removal of sediments and soils from the sidewalks and gutters immediately adjacent to the site. While these are only interim measures, EPA is in discussion with potential responsible parties for the site regarding the need for additional cleanup action to further limit the potential for contact with and off-site migration of the lead-contaminated soils.

The footprint of the former Jewett White Lead Company operations was larger than the property located at 2000 Richmond Terrace and included the property located at 2015 Richmond Terrace which is currently occupied by the Moran Shipyard Corporation (Moran Property) (see attached map - both properties outlined in red were part of the former Jewett White Lead Company operation). EPA plans to conduct an evaluation of the Moran Property to determine if a CERCLA removal action is necessary at this location. The industrial park located at 1957 Richmond Terrace, is not within the footprint of the former Jewett White Lead Company operations nor is it adjacent to property operated by Jewett White Lead Company and will not be evaluated at this time.

Samples collected from the sidewalks immediately adjacent the site confirmed that lead-contaminated soils have migrated from this property. In response, EPA is developing plans to conduct sampling in the neighborhood in vicinity of the site. The purpose of this sampling effort is to determine if lead has migrated from the site to the surrounding area. This effort will initially focus on the residential neighborhood immediately adjacent to the site. If lead is found in this area that is associated with the site, sampling will be expanded as necessary to define the extent of site-related lead contamination.

EPA staff has met with key community members to discuss our findings, explain the removal process, and discuss interim actions taken at the site. More than 600 flyers have been distributed throughout the surrounding community by EPA to inform the public of the hazards present at the site. A public meeting has been tentatively scheduled for the week of May 25th. Please know that EPA is committed to keeping the community informed and involved throughout the entire removal process.

If you have any questions, please let me know or your staff may contact Peter Brandt, Chief for Intergovernmental & Community Affairs at 212-637-3657.

Sincerely,



George Pavlou
Acting Regional Administrator

attachment

